The child also travels safely

Why are children restraint devices

Statistics have proved the increased number of children, less than 12, who are involved in traffic accidents when passengers in vehicles.

It must not be forgotten that at 50 km/h, and without the proper restraint device, a 20 kg. child would impact the windshield with a force equivalent to 500 kg.

The use of children retention devices reduces in 40% fatality accidents, and in 70% the possibility of sustaining serious injuries.

However, despite its effectiveness, the use of these devices are rarely extended in our country, and there are many children riding in cars without protection.

It is of vital importance to know that, as the child grows up, he/she will require a different safety device inside the car, depending on the height and weight.

Basically, there are 4 devices: backward-facing seats, forward-facing seats, booster seats and seat belts.

What does they law say?

	FRONT SEATS	REAR SEATS	RESPONSIBLE
12-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN	It is prohibited to travel with 12-year-old children in the front seat of vehicles, except if they use approved devices.	Less than 12-year-old children, whose height does not reach 135 cm. must use a retention device adapted to their height and weight.	The driver
LESS THAN 12-YEAR-OLD WITH HEIGHT EQUAL OR HIGHER THAN 135 CM.	Exceptionally, when their height is equal or higher than 135 cm. children less than 12 may use the seat belt for adults which front seats are equipped with.	An approved retention device adapted to their height and weight, or the seat belt for adults, could be used.	The driver

Backward-facing seats

Group 0 and 0+

Weight: **Up to 13 kg**

Approximate age: Up to 18 months

WHY?

Backward-facing seats offer more protection to the head, neck and backbone of the baby than the forward-facing seats. Change your baby to a forward-facing seat only when exceeding the maximum weight recommended, or the child's head sticks out from the back.

HOW? The child is tied up to the seat by a five points harness (shoulders, hips and between legs).

NEVER use a baby's seat in the car front seat with an activated airbag

Forward-facing seats

Group 1

Weight:

From 9 to 18 kg

Approximate age:

From 9 months to 4 years

WHY?

Forward-facing seats protect the child because the harness absorbs the forward movement at the time of collision, and the seat belt maintains the seat in its

HOW? The child is tied up to the booster seat by a five points harness (shoulders, hips and between legs).

Booster Seats and Cushions

Group: 2 and 3

Weight:

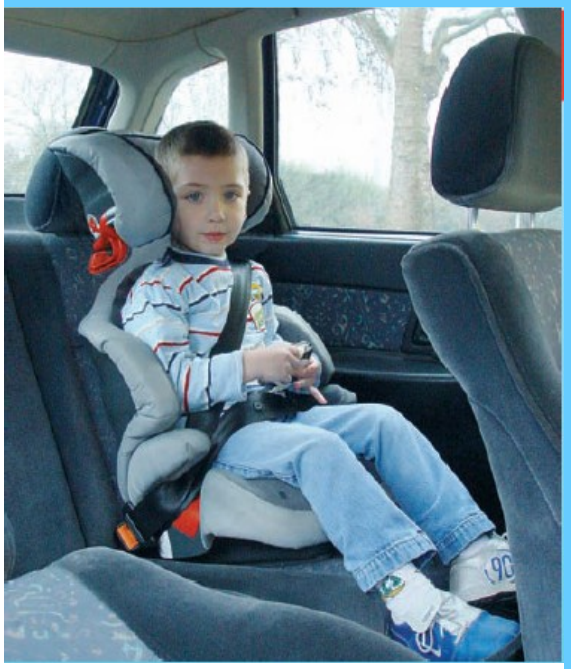
From 15 to 36 kg

Approximate age:

From

WHY?

The child is yet too big for a booster seat and too small for the adults seat belt. These seats “raise” the child, allowing reaching the necessary height to use correctly the adults seat belt. The raisers come with no belts, as the car’s own



HOW?

The diagonal strap of the belt must go over the collarbone, on the shoulder, without touching the neck, and the lap one as low as possible, above the hips, on the thighs, and never on the stomach.

Booster seats with back offer more protection and are more comfortable.

S e a t B e l t s

Height

From 135 cms.

Approximate age:

Around 12 years old.

WHY?

The three points seat belts also provide protection to the child if, when seated erect on the back of the seat, the child is tall enough as to bend the knees up to the edge of the seat without sliding.

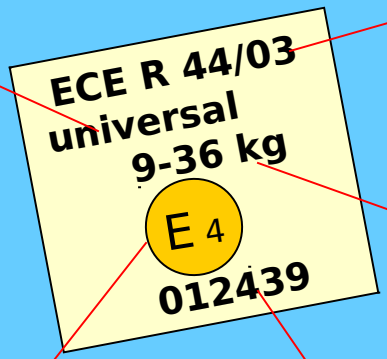
HOW? The diagonal strap of the belt must go over the collarbone, on the shoulder, well tied to the chest while the lap strap must remain low on the hips. If the shoulder strap touches the neck or goes under the chin, the child must remain a longer time in a booster seat.

The shoulder and hips straps act jointly to hold the upper and lower part of the body in case of collision or sudden stop.

NEVER allow the child to set the shoulder strap under the arm or behind th

How to choose a restraint

The seat must be approved and must have a label of approved product as the following:



Category of the device (Universal, Semi-universal or Specific). In this case indicates that it is valid for all vehicles.

Norm of approval.

Indicates the child's weight to which the device is adapted. In this case would correspond to a seat of Group 1,2, and 3.

The capital E is the mark of approval and the subscript number refers to the country that issued it. In this case, number 4 corresponds to Holland. Number 9 corresponds to Spain.

It is the approval identification number.

THE KEYS TO THE SELECTION

Make sure that it corresponds to the weight and height of the child.

Verify that it is easy to install in the car, and that the seat belt is long enough.

Ask for a demonstration of the device fitting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Never hold the child in your arms inside the vehicle, neither share the seat belt with a minor, as, in case of collision, the child could be launched or smashed.
- Place the booster seat preferably, if possible, in the central rear seat, as long as the vehicle has a shoulder and hip seat belt. This way the risk of injuries during a frontal or side collision will be reduced.
- The booster seat straps must be tightened to the child's body.
- Keep in mind not only the manufacturer's seat instructions, but also the vehicle ones, above all, when car comes with airbags.

Think if it is worth to put at risk your child's life or health and having to suffer the rest of your life the consequences of an accident.

A GESTURE, A LIFE

MINISTERIO DEL INTERIOR

DGT Dirección General de Tráfico